Bathhouse drops ban on Negroes

Tribune
Los Angeles, Calif.
7-17-48

You can swim at Bimini now, whatever your color.

After 8 months in which bands of Negroes, whites and Japanese have conducted weekly picketing of the plunge at 180 Bimini place, comes now an announcement by John Frost, pool director, that Bimini doesn't discriminate, that it is open to persons of all races, colors and creeds.

The statement followed a meeting with Frost, several CORE members and others, Jack Fooden, CORE publicity chairman, said today.

Making the statement public, CORE, through Manuel D. Talley, local chairman, suggested that Negroes "express their approval of the policy by attendance at the pool."

Previously, Negroes and Orientals had been turned away from the plunge by guards and the management. When they insisted on entering, one member of the CORE group, who was white, was tossed through a plate glass window.

When they persisted in picketing, the CORE group was doused with water. Men pickets were pushed around.

7-17-48

Gets San Diego Recreation Job

Defender
Chicago, Ill.
7-17-48

SAN DIEGO Calif. — The first Negro to fill such a capacity, Mrs. Louise Saunders of this city was recently appointed to the city recreational department.

A former resident of Baltimore, Md. and Washington, D. C., the appointee is the wife of Orlando Saunders, prominent civic and community leader and niece of Atty. Hugh Macbeth of Los Angeles.

D. C.

Evading The Issue

Twice a year the Board of Recreation requests from the Board of Education permission to use certain school buildings and playgrounds in its recreational program. In recent years the question has been raised as to whether the school board should not place a condition on turning these facilities over to the recretion department, namely, that they be operated without racial segregation. The matter came up for decision in the school board again Wednesday and was decided this time on purely legal grounds. The Board of Education found that the law precludes it from interfering with recreation board policy.

This, it seems to us, is an expedient method of evading the basic issue of segregation or non-segregation. And the school board is not alone in taking refuge behind particularistic interpretations of the law for this same purpose. The law in question is that of 1942 by which the recreation department was set up. In one clause it gives the recreation board power to "determine all questions of general policy." This is the section on which the Board of Education based its decision; alone it would appear to be preclusive. But another section of the same law declares that control of facilities used by the Board of Recreation "shall be in accordance with agreements reached between the board and the governmental agencies having jurisdiction over such facilities."

One of these agencies, the National Park Service, maintains in principle, though not consistently in practice, that it can require non-segregation in its facilities. A minority of the school board hold that it too can do the same and should. But the recreation board, following the interpretation of its chairman, Mr. Harry S. Wender, finds that its hands are bound in any case by still another section of the law which refers to the "comprehensive plan" of the National Capital Park and Planning Commission. And the NCPPC in turn, has declared that the policies of the recreation board's interpretation of the law are not within its province to question.

All the bodies concerned in this conflict of interpretations are well supplied with lawyers, and for that reason we probably cannot expect other than legalistic solutions that beg the question. The upshot is that each one of the public bodies involved seems primarily concerned to pass responsibility on to some one else's shoulders. What they should be doing, in our opinion, is competing with each other to breach the pattern of recreational segregation. As we have pointed out on previous occasions, there is growing proof that members of the two races can enjoy the mixed use of indoor and outdoor recreation facilities without damage to anything but a bad habit. The tradition of segregation is admittedly deep-seated and will not be eliminated at a stroke. Neither will it be wiped out by pious incantation. Changing the pattern requires courageous defiance of what is by any measure a thoroughly undemocratic state of mind. And we can think of no more appropriate place for such defiance than in the Capital City and no more appropriate agencies for it than the public bodies here.

Florida's East Coast To Have First Negro Winter Resort

Dr. Gray Outlines Beach Development

Florida's famous east coast bordering on the Atlantic Ocean known far and wide as the Gold Coast, has opened its doors to the first Negro winter resort, Bethune-Volusia Beach. For the first time in the history of the United States, a beach resort in the making that will compare with the finest beaches in America is now available to the race.

Heretofore, there has been no Negro winter resort. With the opening of Bethune-Volusia Beach, founded by our own Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune, the first opportunity to enjoy a perpetual June in January is now open. This new beach is in an air of world famous beaches and resorts and is just twenty miles south of Daytona Beach. As is well known, Daytona Beach is considered the world's most famous beach and it can well be said that Bethune-Volusia Beach will compare with the famous beaches in its area.

Bethune-Volusia Beach is the southermost beach of its kind in the United States. It borders for more than two and one half miles on the Atlantic Ocean and for the same distance on the Indian River North, an area which is famous, too, for its fine citrus fruit.

Most important, however, is its unrivalled climate. The year-round temperature averages 65 to 80 degrees and has been acclaimed by the medical profession as one of the most healthful regions in the country. Thousands and thousands of people flock to this area throughout the winter months, the heigira starting in November and continuing throughout winter and spring.

Bethune-Volusia Beach is being introduced in the Atlanta area for the first time. Alexander-Calloway Realty Co., of 208 Auburn Ave.

Dr. William H. Gray, president of Florida A and M College and executive vice-president of Bethune-Volusia Beach, Inc., owners and developers of the beach of the same name, spent several hours in Atlanta at the offices of Alexander-Calloway Realty Co., outlining the program that will be taken in the development and improvement of Bethune-Volusia Beach.

Founder by Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune, this beach marks the first time in the history of the United States that Negroes may own and control ocean-front property in an all year-round area. She was successful in acquiring an outstanding property that would compare with and probably surpass many of the famous beaches of the United States.

Bethune-Volusia Beach is not an isolated area but forms part of a chain of world famous Florida beaches. Nevertheless, it is a distinct and separate property. The area in which Bethune-Volusia Beach is located is visited by thousands of people from all over the world, many of whom settle here to enjoy its unrivalled climate which averages the year-round from 65 to 80 degrees. Some of the best fishing and ocean bathing and sports may be enjoyed at the beach the year round.

Daytona Beach is known as the world's most famous beach. Bethune-Volusia Beach, only twenty miles south of Daytona Beach, is physically the same as Daytona Beach.

Dr. Gray emphasized that the company is owned and controlled exclusively by Negroes. In addition to Dr. Bethune, who is treasurer of the company, C. D. Rogers, president of the Central Life Insurance Company and a leader in the colored business world, is president of the beach company.

Since taking over the helm as executive vice-president of the beach company, Dr. Gray emphasized that a definite program of improvements has been inaugurated. It is the intention of the company to make this the outstanding Negro development of the country. The physical resources are there to make this possible.

Bethune-Volusia Beach borders for more than two and one half miles along the Atlantic ocean. It has been subdivided into lots. Choice ocean-front sites are now for sale at low pre-development prices. In fact some lots in the development are priced as low as $295.00 and may be purchased on a liberal budget plan. Alexander-Calloway Realty Co., has been designated as the exclusive agent for this area and complete information may be secured by calling at the office at 208 Auburn Ave., N. E. or by phoning Walnut 0549.

New Orleans Opens 4 Pools

NEW ORLEANS — Four swimming pools for use by Negro children were dedicated in New Orleans this week. This brings to five the number of pools now open to the Negro youths of the city.

Morris X. F. Jeff, head of the Negro department, presided at the dedication exercises of the pools.

Mayor deLesseps S. Morrison stated that more pools would be provided, when the funds were found available and that it was the plan of the city recreation department to make this type of recreation within the reach of every Negro boy and girl in the city.

A committee of Negro citizens acts in directing the affairs of each pool.

A HOLLOW VICTORY

New York Age

BALTIMORE, Md., residents who acclaimed the ruling of Federal Judge W. Calvin Chestnut last week in granting an injunction prohibiting city officials from banning Negroes from public golf courses have begun to wonder how much of a victory was actually won.

True, Judge Chestnut in issuing an order to enforce a ruling he made June 18 said the Mayor, City Council and Board of Recreation and Parks cannot deny the use of any public course under the present unqualified, prohibitory regulation that excluded Negroes. He suggested, however that some compromise might be worked out so that Negro golfers could use the courses only during certain hours or on certain days, and offered to modify his injunction in that light.

New York, N.Y.

"The order," said R. Brooke Maxwell, director of Recreation and Parks, "will be carried out as interpreted. I am not going to defy an order of the Federal government. It means that any one of any race presenting himself at these courses must be sold a ticket."

By suggesting the working out of a compromise, however, Judge Chestnut has shown the way for Baltimore's city officials to revamp and revise their regulations so that they may still discriminate and yet comply with the law. One such method, as the Judge suggested, would be to have Negro golfers use the courses only during certain hours or on certain days. That would make it possible for there still to be separation of the races.

From here it looks as though Baltimore's Negro citizens have won only a hollow victory.

Sat. 7-24-48

24 Defy Jim Crow Law, Arrested

Sat. 7-17-48

The Afro American

BALTIMORE

A hearing was set on Monday morning in Northern Police Court for the 24 persons arrested the previous day for participating in interracial tennis matches sponsored in Druid Hill Park by members of the Young Progressives of Md.

Baltimore, Md.

The group, a faction of the new Wallace party here, is headed by Stanely Askin. It had previously announced its intention of defying the Park Board ruling as a test of the latter's segregation policy.

Post $800 Collateral

All 24 persons were released on Sunday pending a hearing under collateral totaling $800, which was put up by the Wallace group and other interested citizens.

There were 13 colored players in the group. Four of the men players were singled out as leaders and also charged with disorderly conduct when they refused to leave the courts upon orders of city and park police, and had to be lifted bodily into the patrol wagons and squad cars.

Sat. 7-17-48

Cumberland May Ban Playground Segregation

Star News

CUMBERLAND, Md., Sept. 24—(AP)—The Recreation Planning Committee of Cumberland announced today it will recommend an end to racial segregation on municipal playgrounds of Maryland's second largest city.

Evening Star

The group said it had approved a suggestion to that effect by Earle E. Bracey, Negro principal of Carver High School here. Bracey is a member of the committee.

The recommendation will be contained in a report to be handed to the mayor and council of Cumberland shortly.

(In Baltimore, Maryland's first city, playground segregation policies are headed toward a court test. The action was started by the Progressive (Wallace) Party.

Baltimore Parks Set Negro Golfing Hours

Washington Post

Baltimore, July 21 (AP).—The Baltimore Board of Recreation and Parks last night adopted a schedule giving Negroes and whites separate playing time on the city's golf courses.

7-22-48

A Federal Court order filed July 12, as the result of a suit brought by a local Negro, opened all four municipal courses to Negroes. Previously three had been closed to them.

Sun. 7-22-48

The boards action supplants a policy inaugurated by the park department July 13, which authorized the sale of tickets to white or Negro golfers at any time.

Wash. D.C.

Segregation The East Foes Score in Cumberland

Washington D.C.

Cumberland, Md., Sept. 24 (AP).—The recreation planning committee of Cumberland announced today it will recommend an end to racial segregation on municipal playgrounds of Maryland's second-largest city.

Sun. 10-3-48

The group said it had aproved a suggestion to that effect by Earle F. Bracey, Negro principal of Carver High School here. Bracey is

The recommendation will be a member of the committee. contained in a report to be handed to the Mayor and council of Cumberland shortly.

10-3-48

The Cumberland Recreation Planning Committee is an advisory board which makes recommendations to the mayor and council. The municipal body is not bound by its recommendations.

The committee was appointed about six months ago by the mayor and council to study and prepare a long-range recreation poject, to ecommend how proceeds of a $150,00 recreation bond issue should be spent and to recommend acquisition of land and improvement of playgrounds. Its report is not expected before November.

In Baltimore, Maryland's first city, playground segregation policies are headed toward a court test. The action was started by the Progressive (Wallace) Party.

Recently, a Federal court ruled that municipal golf courses in Baltimore must be open to Negro players because links provided for them do not meet the standards of courses for white golfers.

City Loses Money, But Democracy Works:

Jimcro Ban Lifted At Warren Swimming Pool

Morgan and Lee Skeel ruled on the suit. Jurist Skeel dissented. In giving his opinion, he stated that the court had no jurisdiction since the lease held by the club had already expired.

The recreation spot is again under the supervision of the city. During the past year, it was operated by the Veterans Swim Club, composed of former servicemen. They permitted only members of the club to use the facilities.

The local NAACP protested the action. After the club officials failed to agree on a satisfactory solution, the case was filed in Common Pleas Court in Stark County.

ACCORDING TO James F. Brown, city editor of the Warren Tribune Chronicle, the city leased the pool to the private club to boost attendance. During 1945-46 it lost money. City officials had hoped attendance would improve.

The veterans made application for renewal of the lease after the case was filed by the NAACP, but the city failed to take any action.

Editor Brown said a check on the attendance since the city resumed operation of the center, revealed an average of only 750 persons are using the facilities daily compared to 1500 previously. As a result, the city is suffering a loss of $18 a day.

Negro citizens refused to accept a compromise recently.

Special To The NEWS

WARREN

The year-old ban on Negro citizens using the municipal swimming pool here was lifted last week.

In a two-to-one decision, the Eighth District Court of Appeals ruled that the city has no right to lease its pool to a private club that bars Negroes.

Toledo Gets Swimming Pool

TOLEDO, O. — (ANP) — The city council last week unanimously voted an appropriation of $240,240 for the immediate construction of the city park swimming pool and shelter house, which will serve an area predominantly populated by Negro residents.

The pool, which will be one of the largest in the city, will be available for use in August, barring construction difficulties, according to Councilman James B. Simmons Jr., who introduced the ordinance.

Negro Park Budget Inadequate

Time To Ask For More Money

Oklahoma Eagle 7-1-48

Estimates are now being made by the city and county departments for the budgetary needs for the year 1948-49. Last year when the Urban League Committee on Recreation presented their overall park recommendations to the park board, they were told that the park funds were too limited.

Among the recommendations made last year were the following: 1. Employment of a full-time, year-round park supervisor. 2. Immediate development, improvement, and enlargement of the two Negro parks, Lincoln and Greenwood. 3. Baseball bleachers, improved toilet facilities, a storm sewer at Lincoln. 4. Adequate tables, ovens, and benches. 5. Adequate lighting in the parks. 5. Painting, upkeep and supervision of the recreation hall.

A reasonable list of long range plans were also presented to the park superintendent and the board. Since those requests were made, a little has been done there. For the coming year, there will be the same excuse—no funds if the citizens of North Tulsa do not make a strong request for an adequate share of the budget which will provide some of the immediate and long range needs embodied in their 1947 requests.

The total budget for 1947-48 was $174,100.00. Of this amount $97,000.00 went for the salaries of employees. $53,000.00 was alloted for recreation expense, $19,565.00 was alloted to maintenance. These were the three biggest items in the budget.

The Oklahoma Eagle attempted to get a breakdown on the amount spent for Negro parks. That figure was not available and never has been. The Oklahoma Eagle believes that a definite accounting should be made of money spent for Negro parks, so that the people in North Tulsa can know.

It can be assumed that proportionately, Negro parks are not getting their fair share or equitable part of the total park budget. As far as the budget for Negro parks and their successful operation is concerned, there is no budget nor program.

The requests of the Urban League Committee were reasonable. Within the next appropriation, it seems that some consideration should be given to the expansion and improvement of a program in North Tulsa. Of major importance, is the employment of a fully-qualified year-round Negro park supervisor. This man would be rosponsible for instituting a year-round program in the Negro parks aided by competent help.

North Tulsans sincerely hope that consideration will be given to the requests and recommendation of the Urban League Committee on Recreation so that adequate funds can be earmarked in next year's budget. Such reasonable requests should receive consideration; but in the event, they continue to receive a deaf hearing, it may be necessary to resort to court action in such a way that action can be adequately secured. North Tulsans have been patient in their pleas but there is an end to patience. It seems that we are being continually ignored.

Plan to Build Segregated Swimming Pool Forsaken

The Afro-American Sat. 2-24-48 Baltimore, Md.

Mayor of York Suggests Observance of State Anti-Discrimination Laws

YORK, Pa.—City plans to build a segregated swimming pool at the Cripus Attucks Association in an effort to relieve pressure for the admittance of colored persons to the Municipal Pool have been abandoned.

The plans, said to be the "baby" of Mayor Felix S. Bentzel and Park Director Herbert F. Anderson, received a cool reception from both white and colored citizens.

They were officially dropped when Dr. O. H. Kimbrough, president of the Crispus Attucks board of directors, said a poll of the group indicated that they were opposed to the construction of a public pool at the association.

Mayor Switches Plan

This development led the mayor, who had promised equal swimming facilities for colored persons during his mayoralty campaign, to say that observance of the State law prohibiting racial discrimination at public places might now be the only answer to the pool problem.

He declared that if the plans to build a pool at Crispus Attucks were "objectionable to both colored and white persons, then I would like to see them eliminated."

he didn't believe "a city should be in business," acted 72 hours after the Mayor's Interracial Commission urged that the pool be opened this year without segregation.

Mayor Felix S. Bentzel said, "If the plan for a pool at the Crispus Attucks Center is objectionable to both white and colored persons, then I would like it to be eliminated." Final disposition of the issue is expected this week.

The Rev. Frank A. Reed, local NAACP president, said efforts to sell the pool "is unfortunate and constitutes an attempt to evade responsibility." Directors of the Crispus Attucks Community Center objected to a jim-crow pool there.

York Moves to Sell Pool, Fears Mixing

The Afro-American Baltimore, Md. Baltimore, Md.

YORK, Pa.—Aligning himself with racial bigots who oppose its use by all citizens, Park Director Herbert F. Anderson, last Thursday, introduced a bill in city council authorizing him to sell the municipal swimming pool to the highest bidder. Sat. 5-1-48

A few minutes earlier, Councilman Fred A. Schiding ran into a barrage of criticism from his colleagues when he suggested that the city construct a $44,000 jim-crow pool to give colored citizens "an opportunity to swim."

Afraid of Integration

The park director who explained his haste to sell the pool by saying

Negroes Ask More Recreation Funds

The Record Columbia, S.C.

Wed 1-28-48

Group Protests Crumbs From Table At Council Meeting; Figures Given In Reply

By Tina Cannon

Negro citizens of Columbia appealed to city council today for additional recreation facilities here, and asserted that "Negroes are receiving the crumbs from the table of council, and council apparently thinks they're sustenance enough." 1-28-48

Led by Negro attorney W. Frederick Robinson, the group of 20 citizens pointed out to council that Negroes comprise 40 per cent of the population of the city, and three-sevenths of the property owners. "Yet," declared Robinson, "Negroes get only one per cent of the city's recreation funds, based on a comparative assessed evaluation of the Negro and white parks.

"For every $100 spent for recreation for whites in Columbia," he said, "only 75 cents is spent for Negroes." He said that the city operates 20 parks and playgrounds for whites, and only two for Negroes, and that those two were "poorly equipped, and not near the center of Negro population."

"This lack of recreation facilities forces our children into the streets." Robinson said, "and there the policemen chase them. You call our children delinquents, yet you do nothing to keep them from being delinquents." The Record

He asked city council to "do something" about a proposed swimming pool for Negroes, to be placed in Seegars park. "Will funds be provided for this pool", he queried, "or was council's action in voting for this pool merely a move to put the quietus on any contemplated injunctive action?" Columbia, S.C.

Paschal Replies 1-28-48

Councilman Gary Paschal told Robinson in reply that the recreation department had requested in the 1948 budget the following items for Negro parks here: A $1,747 spray pool at Old Howard playground, which may be used as a skating rink in winter; a $10,000 community house at Seegars park; water and sewer connections to Seegars park, costing $2,666; and a lighted softball diamond costing $1,650 at Seegars park.

In addition, he said, council last year had earmarked $9,600, gained from the sale of the Taylor street USO to Allan university, for development of Seegars park, a ten-and-one-half acre tract. This, added to the other requested items, would mean a municipal grant of $26,663 for permanent improvements to Negro recreational facilities in 1948, he said. A sum of $74,000 is being requested for similar projects at white parks, he said.

Mayor Frank C. Owens commented that city council had indicated its desire to build a swimming pool for Negroes, along with two for white citizens, but had allocated money for only one pool, that for Maxcy Gregg park. "How we'll finance the other two pools we'll get," the mayor said. The Record

Harth Lists Facilities 1-28-48

W. H. Harth, head of the city recreation department, told city council that the department currently was operating three parks and playgrounds for Negroes. Old Howard, at the corner of Lincoln and Hampton streets, has a pre-school in the mornings, games in the afternoons, and is open for community meetings and teen-agers at nights, he said. The park has two paid leaders. The Record

Seegars park, he said, has a small house, some playground equipment, a baseball diamond, a basketball court, and one paid leader. St. Anna's playground, owned privately but operated by the city, has a spray pool, a pre-school with 90 children enrolled, and two paid leaders, he said. He declared that "we need a good deal of money spent for development" at the Negro parks.

Committee Asked

Robinson asked that a committee of Negro citizens be appointed to work together with the recreation depaprtment leaders on the needs of Negroes. "We've been around a good number of years, and we should've had some parks built up by now," he said. Wed. 1-28-48

Mayor Owens replied, "A start has been made. You can't start on third base; you've got to begin on first." Columbia, S.C.

"I made the motion to build a colored swimming pool," City Councilman Lester L. Bates said, "and I assure you it was not my intention that this should be a delaying motion. I'll not sit idly by and let that resolution pass up. I insist that a colored pool in Maxcy Gregg park. "How we'll be built if the white ones are built. have contended that these should be provided for with revenue bonds. That way, we can have the pools now. If we wait until we have the cash, I don't know when that'll be." The mayor assured the committee of Negro citizens that their comments on recreation were appreciated by council. "We have a good many more requests for recreational facilities than it looks as though we can take care of this year," he said, "but recreation is one of my hobbies. I've been trying to develop the recreational program, and I will continue to do so."

City Council agreed that the group should appoint five of its members to work with recreational director W. H. Harth on Negro recreation. Wed 1-28-48

PROGRAM FOR YEAR

Chamber To Seek Negro Recreational Betterment

Record Columbia S.C.

Continuing a program toward more recreational facilities for Columbians, a Chamber of Commerce sub-committee will give particular attention this year to recreational opportunities for Negroes.

James H. Hammond, before a meeting this morning of the civic improvements committee, strongly protested the lack of recreational facilities here and said attention should be focussed "on the colored man." Record

"We haven't done him right on recreation in this city. We have given him one little pool. And the colored man has just as much right to take out a basket picnic as the white man. I believe if we establish a drive to give more recreational opportunities and particularly give our attention to the recreational rights of the colored people, it will not only be a simple humanitarian gesture but is good from the standpoint of economy. If we give them some place to go, we won't have the police courts filled with their boys.

"The biggest industry in America is the American government. The second is recreation. Mr. Hammond said. "More money is spent on that than on anything else, next to the government. On the Fourth of July, 17,000 persons went swimming at Sesquicentennial State park. At the same time 200,000 visitors went to the South Carolina coast to avoid the heat here. Record

"We're fixed for better facilities in other counties as well as Richland county. Enlarging recreational opportunities for colored people will answer one of the biggest questions in race history today. If we give them the opportunity to have lakes and parks and playgrounds, we'll have a better race and better race conditions." Columbia S.C.

The sub-committee on recreation will also look into the possibilities of enlarging facilities at Sesquicentennial State park.

It was announced at the meeting that sub-committees from the Chamber of Commerce, Merchants association and the city health department will further consider a rat eradication ordinance for Columbia, after which it will be submitted to City Council. This ordinance is now being enforced in Charleston. Wed. 7-14-48

Max Citron, chairman of the sub-committee on sanitation, reported on the ordinance.

The committee also endorsed the city health department's plan of spraying the city with a DDT fog, announced yesterday by Dr. J. W. Pitts, health officer, and approved today by city council.

W. L. Heinz, chairman of the Chamber's beautification committee, reported on the improvement of Maxcy Gregg park by the city beautification committee.

Harold DeLorme, chairman of the civic improvements committee, presided over today's meeting in the Chamber of Commerce offices.

Recreation Department Announces Examination Plans for Playground Applicants And Describes Courses

The Recreation Department Memphis Park Commission announced this week, that a course in Playground Methods and Activities will be given to those interested in the subject and also to those desiring appointment to the Memphis Public Playgrounds.

Supervision and Leadership are the keynotes to the success of any Playground Administration, according to a statement contained in the announcement.

The course will be present the purpose of Playgrounds and need of suitable Dramatic Art, Games, Dances, Use and Supervision of Apparatus, Creative Play, Handicraft and Story Telling, for the Children of the Playgrounds. The needs, interests and capacities of the child; the practical conduct of playgrounds with certain administrative features, will be considered. The methods of supervision of a playground and its surrounding community, the social responsibility, and how to successfully discharge them, are given consideration in the course.

The course, is intended to prepare the future members of the Playground Staff for the intensive summer vacation Playground Season extending from June, 1948 to September, 1948. Appointments will be made for that period of time only, subject to reinstatement the following Playground Summer Vacation Season.

A specialist in recreation leadership training, Mrs. Ruth Garber Eilers, from the National Recreational Association, is scheduled to direct the training course this year.

Persons interested in taking the course should be prepared to submit statements showing training and participation in this or similar work, positions previously held, if any, and duties performed therein, knowledge of Playgrounds, etc.

Aspirants will be given a written and oral examination. Their personality will be judged, based upon the apparent fitness of the applicant from the standpoint of appearance, ability to control, endurance, expression and attitude.

On Monday, April 26th, the written examinations shall be held, viz; one examination for those desiring to qualify for Director or Assistant Director, and one examination for those desiring to qualify for Instructor or Assistant Instructor.

In justice to those residents of Memphis, who, due to absence from the city, and therefore, unable to take the course, but, who, nevertheless are desirous and are capable of serving efficiently on the Public Playgrounds of Memphis, a special examination and personality test will be held in the office of the Recreation Department, Memphis Park Commission.

These applicants will be graded similarly to those who matriculated in the Playground Course, and their grade will determine their rank in the eligibility list. However, justice dictates that all questions being equal, preference shall be given those applicants who enrolled in and passed the Playground Course.

Those at present appointed and serving as Playground Workers shall be assigned forthwith, regardless of their final grade, providing they do not make an average of less than 70 per cent in the Course.

Promotion, without written examination, shall be made from assistant instructor, to instructor to assistant director, to director as the case might be, for meritorious and singularly efficient service.

The course was conducted as follows: Registration for training course, week of April 12th through April 17th at Beale Avenue Community Center, 393 Beale Avenue, telephone 8-9904.

Tennessee

White Residents in Loudoun District Are Complainants

KNOXVILLE, Tenn.—Negroes in Knoxville and Knox County filed, in Chancery Court last week, an intervening petition in opposition to a bill filed previously in the same court by a white group, which asked for an injunction to prohibit a Knox County judge from signing a lease agreement with Tennessee Valley Authority for approximately ninety acres of land fronting on Fort Loudoun Lake, about fourteen miles from Knoxville.

This land was to be developed and maintained by Knox County as a park and recreational center for Negroes. White persons who signed the bill are residents in the area of the contemplated park site.

CITE PROPERTY DAMAGE

They gave as their reason for objecting to the park, that it was the intention of the defendant, Knox County, to "conduct all manner of instrumetalities of amusement, i.e., merry-go-rounds, ferris wheels, etc., together with stores and shops in which food of various kinds and character merchandise with other articles will be sold," and that such an establishment "would seriously damage property suitable for residential purposes."

The intervening petitioners, Charles W. Cansler, Mrs. W. D. S. Bradley, Clabe Claiborne, Mrs. Inza McAdoo, Robert Cooper, Isaac Hardin and Limon P. Bacon Sr., filed their petition on behalf of themselves and all other Negroes standing in the same category.

The petition set forth "that the complainants, Lucile Hart, et al, white, "have no real objection to the area known as Lowe's Ferry Park being used for park and recreational purposes as such, except said area and facilities will be used primarily by members of the Negro race."

NO PARK FOR NEGROES

The petitioners pointed out "that there is no place in Knox County, where members of the Negro race can use and enjoy recreational benefits and facilities of a kind, comparable to any that are provided on the lakes in the Tennessee Valley Reservoir."

The petitioners are represented by Carl A. Cowan, a Knoxville Negro attorney. Mr. Cowan is also chairman of the Legal Redress Committee of the NAACP.

The effort of the Negroes of the City of Knoxville and Knox County to obtain park facilities dates back some five or more years.

Last July the Knox County Court approved the recommendation and unanimously passed a resolution signed by Carl A. Cowan and Doyle King, authorizing and directing the county judge to enter into a lease agreement with the United States through the TVA for the development and operation by Knox County of a recreational area.

The County Court at this same session approved a recommendation of the County Finance Committee that $5,000 be set up in the [illegible] budget to be used as an [illegible] development of the proposed park.

Court Action Is Brought To Gain Site For Park

KNOXVILLE, Tenn.—Negro citizens of the city of Knoxville and Knox County filed in Chancery Court last week an intervening petition as a "counter punch" of a bill filed previously in the same court by a white group which asked for an injunction to prohibit the Knox County Judge from signing a lease agreement with Tennessee Valley Authority for approximately 90 acres of land fronting on Fort Loudoun Lake about 14 miles from Knoxville. This land was to be developed and maintained by Knox County as a park and recreational center for Negroes.

Houston Negroes Want Golf Course

Black Dispatch — Oklahoma City.

HOUSTON — (ANP) — A group of leading Negro ministers and sportsmen appealed to Mayor Oscar Holcombe and the city council to purchase property for the setting up of a golf course for colored people in Houston, last week.

Presented by J. H. Peminson, the group's petition asked for the purchase of between 151 and 175 acres of property near the Negro district in Houston.

The petition was endorsed by the First, Third, ourth and Fifth Ward civic clubs, the Negro Chamber of Commerce, the Dental association, the Federation of Negro Women's clubs, the Medical association, the Greater Houston Elks lodge and the Clinton Park Country club.

Mayor Holcombe praised the petition by saying, "Mr. Jemison, you have made a fine presentation." Ltr. 7-24-48

$60,000 Estate Left For Va. Playground

The Courier - Sat 7-3-48

(41)

CHRISTIANSBURG, Va.—Negro children of Christiansburg are the beneficiaries of a fortune of $60,000 amassed by the late Mrs. Rosa L. Peters in Honolulu, Hawaii.

Mrs. Peters, one of the few women of her race to go to foreign shores and accumulate a large share of worldly goods, was raised in Christiansburg.

Upon her death in 1944, it was discovered that Mrs. Peters left the entire income of her estate to the playground for the colored children of Christiansburg. The estate was placed in the charge of a trust company in Hawaii and in early 1947 they filed a case in the First Judicial Circuit Court of Hawaii, to determine if the children would receive the benefits. The case has finally been decided in favor of the children and the long fight results in a permanently endowed playground.

FORM LEAGUE

It is interesting to note that some years ago a group of interested citizens of Christiansburg, under the progressive and militant leadership of the late P. T. (Tim) Mallory, formed the Civic Betterment League of Christiansburg, to improve the health of their community by setting up recreational facilities for their children.

Upon being informed that Mrs. Peters had left the income of her estate to their playground, this same group incorporated themselves under the name—"Children's Playground for the Negro Children of Christiansburg (Va.) U. S. A."

Officers of the corporation are Alfonso James, president; Elmer A. Bishop, vice president; S. B. Morgan, treasurer, and Mrs. Dessie Mallory, secretary, wife of the late founder. Members of the board of directors, other than the above-named, are: H. Leslie Giles, Flint McNorton, J. D. Jones, Nathan Holmes, Trigg Nowlin, Mrs. Katie Pate, the Rev. G. M. Calloway, E. G. Reynolds and J. B. Cooley. Attorney for the corporation is George P. Lawrence of Roanoke, Va.

Arlington Negro Playground Site Rejected

Arlington County Board yesterday rejected a recommendation by the county's planning division calling for purchase of a 4-acre playground site for Hall's Hill Negro community.

The rejection was by a 3-2 vote after more than 300 persons, all white, protested the playground location. Petitions signed by 290 persons opposing the location were presented to board members.

The county planning division had recommended the county purchase the site, a wooded tract between Lee highway and Arlington Hospital, at a cost of $23,000, a figure the division described as "reasonable."

The division said the sit could be adapted to playground use without the need of extensive improvements. Besides the original cost, the division's plans called for eventual expenditure of about $10,000 to reroute the proposed George Mason drive, which as now planned would plass through the site.

Protesting residents claimed the site is too close to "extensive white areas" and that it would deteriorate existing property values. They also contended noise from the playground would constitute a nuisance.

County board members Basil DeLashmuth, F. Freeland Chew and Afred E. Frisbie voted against the purchase. Board Chairman Dan Dugan and Mrs. Florence Cannon voted in favor of it.

The board referred to the County Electoral Board a request from the committee on school improvements, the Better Government League and county Republicans that county equipment be used to make copies of voting lists, which would be available for use by the three organizations.

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Gateway Plunge Ready by June 15 Architect Declares

Fri 4-16
County Bulletin
San Bernardino Daily

SAN BERNARDINO — Progressing considerably ahead of schedule, work on the plunge at San Bernardino's Gateway park is approximately 70 per cent complete and on the bathhouse about 30 per cent complete, it was reported by William F. Mellin, San Bernardino architect who designed the recreational facilities. He said the projects would be finished about June 15.

Thu. 5-13-48

The pool, which measures 75 by 165 feet, is a regulation A.A.U. plunge. Its depth ranges from four to 12 feet. A circular wading pool is being constructed at one end.

Thu 5-13-48

The bathhouse will be large enough to accommodate 750 persons, and is being constructed so that it may serve as a meeting place during the winter months.

The pool is being built under a $98,967 contract with the United Swimming Pool Corp., and the bathhouse is being constructed by the C. J. Bakker Construction Co., holder of an $84,741 contract.

To Avoid Jimcro, Jersey School Bans Swimming And Golf

ASBURY PARK, N. J.—(ANP)—it was revealed here this week that Asbury Park High had not participated in swimming of golf for the past two years, due to the prejudiced attitude regarding these sports held by numerous contestants.

The superintendent of schools emphasized the fact that since Negro athletes were usually barred in swimming pools and golf courses the school had banned any participation by all to save any embarrassment to its non-white students.

Dr. Joseph F. Carter, the lone Negro member of the board was in complete accord with Supt. Hill's statement.

NEW BIAS TRIAL ORDERED

Negro Woman, Barred, Wins Move in Suing Palisades Park

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

TRENTON, N. J., Dec. 8—The Appellate Division of the New Jersey Superior Court overruled today a lower court decision that barred a Negro woman from the swimming pool at Palisades Amusement Park, Palisades Park, N. J.

In ordering a new trial Judge Frederick R. Colie ruled that the Bergen County district court had given too narrow an interpretation of an act that prohibits discrimination "in places of public accommodation, resort or amusement." In district court Judge Dominick Marconi, hearing an action for a $500 penalty brought by Miss Melba Valle of 81 Morningside Avenue, New York, after she was denied admission to the pool in June, 1947, interpreted the law to apply only to bathhouses at seashore resorts.

Judge Marconi was said today to have erred also in hearing the evidence alone after the operators of the pool had waived their right to a jury trial.

The defendants in the proceedings were the Rosecliff Realty Company, Inc., and three of its officers — Irving Rosenthal, Jack Rosenthal and Anna S. Halpin.

Skating for Negroes

Constitution

Editor Constitution: Why can't the colored children of this city have a skating rink? I think it would be a fine idea. The parents would like the idea of their children having some amusement. The city could have an organ to play music and sell refreshments.

Atlanta, Ga.

The reason I suggest this is because so many accidents are happening by children skating in the streets and running in front of cars. I believe that if we had a skating rink, it would prevent so many accidents. Thur. 1-15-48

We only have one park, so when it's time to open, everyone flocks there so you can't have a nice time. Why can't some ctizen interested in an investment help? It would pad his pockets.

INEZ MAYFIELD
Age 13, Ashby St. School
Atlanta. 1-15-48

(Editor's Note: for a long time The Constitution has fought for more Negro parks. This child and all others should have a place to skate.)

100-Acre Park For Negroes Approved

The Atlanta Constitution
Atlanta, Ga

Plans for a 100-acre Negro park, expected to be one of the biggest and best equipped recreation areas for Negroes in the South, were approved by Fulton County Commissioners Wednesday afternoon. Thur. 6-3-48

To be named Anderson Park, the recreation area adjoins Battle Hill Convalescent Home in West Fulton and includes a section of the battleground from which Union soldiers shelled the City of Atlanta, County Manager A. E. Fuller said. Work has already started on the park, but its completion is expected to take several years. Thur 6-3-48

Eventually the park will include an athletic field, a nine-hole golf course, tennis, basketball and volley ball courts, an administration area, swimming pool and bathhouse, grill and picnic areas and a playground for children. A day camp area, situated on a high knoll in the Southeast corner of the park, is already under construction. Water is being piped from Battle Hill by the City of Atlanta, Manager Fuller said.

Howard G. Shaw House Marks 40th Birthday

ROXBURY, Mass. — Robert Gould Shaw House, Inc., founded in 1907 and incorporated in 1908, of which Howard F. Kollett is board president and Morris R. Taylor, headworker, is celebrating its 40th anniversary.

The celebration includes Open House, to which the public is invited, and a banquet at the Timilty School in Roxbury. These events will occur on March 15 and 16 respectively.

The record of growth and achievement of the social agency represents the struggle of the Negro in Boston to make his imprint upon the life of this community economically, socially and culturally.

At the time of the founding of Robert Gould Shaw House, social service as a profession had not then grown to recognition, recreation was home-made and group work was in its infancy. In spite of this it was generally agreed among those interested in the betterment of social conditions in the Roxbury area that what was needed was the wholesome influence of a recreation center.

In 1902 a small group of pioneers from South End House, started the work which six years later became Robert Gould Shaw House. These pioneers include Misses Amy Isabel Eaton and Marion Doolittle, the first headworkers, and Harold Peabody treasurer for 40 years.

Among some of the outstanding citizens who have served on its board of managers are: Robert Treat Paine, George Lyman Paine, Richard P. Hallowell, II, Edgar P. Benjamin, Edmund Q. Sylvester, Dr. T. E. A. McCurdy and Edward Ingram. Misses Alice P. Tapley, Harriet Curtis, Josephine Crawford, Maria Baldwin and Gertrude S. Taber. Mrs. John W. Bartol, and Mrs. Charles S. Butler.

Negroes Make Offer on Eastwood Park

Detroit Times

A syndicate of eight Negro businessmen has offered a down payment of $250,000 on Eastwood Park.

This was revealed Monday night at a meeting of the East Detroit City Council which took conclusive action to halt the sale of liquor at the amusement park for the rest of this year.

George A. Francis, attorney for the park, said that the operators, Max Kerner and Henry Wagner, were anxious to sell.

Date 8-17-48

HE TOLD the meeting, which was attended by some 800 citizens, that the down payment had been offered "within the past few days." Total price was not mentioned.

The park property, Francis said, includes 116 vacant lots at Gratiot and Eight Mile.

This information brought a howl from real estate men and property owners. They urged the Council to approve a liquor license for the park and forestall the sale.

Detroit Times

Francis said the syndicate included a real estate broker, a bowling alley operator, a night club proprietor, a cab company owner and a beer distributor.

* * *

JOE LOUIS, he said, also was included, "by representation." The attorney did not explain the reference.

Date 8-17-48

Francis said Wagner's eagerness to sell was heightened by a heart attack he suffered Sunday night. Wagner is in Harper Hospital.

The Council voted 3 to 2 against approving a liquor license for the park.

Mayor Mildred Stark, George S. Stone and Mrs. Betty Hays voted against it. In favor of it were Walter Sullivan, who introduced the resolution, and Charles W. Yost.

* * *

THE PARK'S license was withdrawn by the Liquor Control Commission after Kerner and Wagner had been convicted on gambling charges.

Eastwood has been seeking to have it renewed.

Date 8-17-48

The operators said that it is not profitable to bring name bands to the park's dance pavilion unless liquor can be served.

The LCC said that it was "bound by the statute which makes assent of the local Government necessary to liquor-license approval."

Mayor Stark has been leading fight to close the park.

The Council revoked the park's operating license, but the park won an injunction against the action in Circuit Court.

Negro-White Unit Barred; 22 Arrested

Eleven Negroes and 11 white persons were arrested yesterday after they protested being refused admission as a group into the swimming pool at Palisades (N. J.) Amusement Park.

The 22 are members of the Committee on Racial Equality, 7 E. 15th St., which for three years has campaigned against the pool's alleged Jim Crow policy.

James Peck, secretary of the committee, said the group acted yesterday to make a test case. He contended that the pool was violating the Federal Civil Rights Act.

After being admitted to the park, the 22 went to the pool's admission wicket. When their money was refused, a spokesman said:

"We insist on our rights to be admitted to a public pool."

Tries to Arrange Bail

The management called police from Fort Lee, N. J., who arrested the 22 on charges of "blocking entrance to the pool, creating a disturbance and refusing to move when told to."

Hiram E. Elfenbein, Jersey City attorney, will represent the arrested persons. They were released in Elfenbein's custody for trial Aug. 12.

Meanwhile three pickets, headed by Peck, paraded in front of the park. They carried such signs as: "Irving Rosenthal discriminates against Negroes."

Efforts to reach Rosenthal, assistant park manager, for a statement were fruitless yesterday.

One Suit Fails

In the past, Rosenthal has said that the pool was a private concession, operated by the Palisades Sun & Turf Club, which could select its own members.

Ten of the 22 filed a damage suit of $270,000 last August against the park, but Federal Judge William F. Smith ruled against them.

Smith dismissed 20 charges against the Palisades pool with the ruling that "full and equal enjoyment of the accommodations . . . of a private amusement park is not a right or privilege secured by the Constitution."

The new New Jersey State Constitution adopted last November, however, extends specific protection against racial discrimination. Peck said the committee hoped to win a new ruling on the basis of the new state charter.

22 ARRESTED IN PROTEST OVER SWIMMING BAN

JERSEY CITY, N. Y., July 27 —A protest by members of the Committee on Racial Relations over a ban on Negro swimmers at Palisaides (N. J.) swimming pool Sunday resulted in the arrest of eleven Negroes and eleven white persons.

James Peck, secretary of the committee, said the group acted to make a test case. After being admitted into the park, they were barred from the pool. They were later arrested for "blocking entrance to the pool and creating a disturbance and refusing to move when told to."

Ten of the 22 filed a damage suit of $270,000 last August against the park, but U. S. Judge William Smith ruled against them. He contended that "full and equal enjoyment accommodations of a private amusement park is not a right or privilege secured by the Constitution.

The new state constitution adopted last November, however, extends specific protection against racial discrimination. It is hoped to win a new ruling on the basis of the new state charter.

Law Journal

Editorial Flays Ruling On Pool

NEWARK, N. J.— Rarely does a law review attack a court decision in its editorial columns. But so brazen was the recent decision of District Judge Dominick Marconi acquitting Palisades Amusement Park's swimming pool of racial discrimination that the New Jersey Law Journal of June 17, carried an editorial on it

"On the basis of the opinion it appears that the court engaged in a series of legal gymnastics to reach the desired result," the editorial said. "The device of a 'club' notoriously is used as a means of discrimination and a subterfuge to evade civil rights statutes. The court's opinion thus gives judicial sanction to a thinly veiled artifice."

Asserting that "the evils at which the New Jersey civil rights act was aimed are very real and substantial," the editorial concludes: "It is not the function of a court to rewrite a statute. Nor is it the function of a court to contract to eviscerate a statute. It is the function of a court to find and apply legislative meaning. This, the instant decision has not accomplished."

The case against the swimming pool, brought by Melba Valle, a Negro, was handled by Hiram Elfenbein, Workers Defense League attorney. He confident that Judge Marconi's decision will be reversed on appeal.

22 WHITES, NEGROES ARRESTED FOR PROTESTING SWIM POOL BAN

National Guard Instructor Accused of Leading Angered Objectors

DISTANT NEIGHBORS CIRCULATE EVICTION PETITION

PALISADES, N. J. — (ANP) — A test of whether private amusement management would finally comply with the new state constitution, which forbids racial discrimination and segregation, brought the arrest of 11 Negroes and 11 whites who sought to gain admission as a group into the swimimng pool at Palisades Amusement park here last week. The 22 are members of the Committee on Racial equality, which has been campaigning for three years against private owned recreational parks operated under a jim crow policy.

According to James Peck, CORE secretary, the group was admitted to the park, but when its members sought admission to the swimming pool, their money was refused. One member of the group said, "We insist on our rights to be admitted to a public pool."

The management called the police from Fort Lee, N. J., and had the group arrested on charges of "blocking entrance to the pool, creating a disturbance and refusing to move when told to."

Last August, 10 of the 22 filed a $270,000 damage suit against the park in Federal Judge William F. Smith's court. However, Smith dismissed 20 charges against the pool on the contention that "full and equal enjoyment of the accommodations of a private amusement park is not a right or privilege secured by the constitution."

CORE however, plans a suit against the pool under the new state constitution, adopted last November, which extends specific protection against racial discrimination.

Law Journal Says Court Turned Acrobat on Bias

Terms Ruling Permitting Palisades Park to Go Free the Result of Legal Gymnastics

NEWARK

In the opinion of the New Jersey Law Journal, of which Alfred C. Clapp is editor, Judge Dominic Marconi of the Second District Court of Bergen County engaged in "legal gymnastics" to reach his recent decision ruling that Palisades Amusement Park at Fort Lee has not been breaking the New Jersey Civil Rights Act.

Earlier this month Judge Marconi ruled that Palisades Park's swimming pool is a private club and did not break the law by denying admittance to Harold O. Cox and Melba Valle of New York City, who sought damage in the name of the State of New Jersey.

Long Sore Spots

The swimming pool and some other facilities at the park long have been sore spots for Jerseyans and New Yorkers. Last year Miss Valle Cox, and eight others were arrested for insisting upon equal rights at the pool.

In February, in the U.S. District Court of New Jersey, Judge Smithar ruled that they may have redress in the State Courts for assault, but could not claim relief under the Federal Civil Rights Act because its section relating to accommodations had been declared unconstitutional.

He hinted that he would consider color of law to deprive them of their civil rights.

Excerpts from the Law Journal

"In State v. Roseciiff Realtying Company, Inc., reported in full in last week's Law Journal (71 N. J. L. 219), it was held by the judge of the District Court of the Second District that the statutory prohibition against discrimination by "placesations, resorts or accommodation, similar and interlocking. The decision, however, admittedly did not apply to a "club" located within the boundaries of the Palisades Amusement Park. (Footnote: "It may be that there were facts and circumstances, other than those contained in the opinion, which will tend to justify the decision.

"But on the basis of the opinion reported it appears to be clear that the Court engaged in a series of legal gymnastics to reach the result announced.

Run by Same Group

"First, the Court found the exclusiveness of the club inapplicable because the incorporated sun and surf "club" was owned and operated by an distinct from the corporation operating the amusement park.

"The exclusiveness of the club was complete; Non-members were permitted to swim only at eight o'clock in the morning.

"The directorates of both corporations, however, admittedly were identical.

"History demonstrates the danger which threaten a government that tolerates an economic or social evil under color of ideologies it is recognized as a civil right.

and increased use in other and perhaps less obvious circumstances. In so doing, it perverts the meaning of the statute and makes enforcement more difficult.

"Second, the court held the statute to be in derogation of the common law 'highly penal,' and thus to be strictly construed. This approach makes extremely difficult the vindication of the rights secured by the legislation.

Ancient View

"While there is precedent for the court's view, it is ancient considering the legislative concern for the past half century and more recent authority indicates a changing judicial attitude.

"If general propositions are appropriate, there is a sound factual basis for holding the act remedial and entitled to a liberal construction.

"In any event, the words of Holmes are appropriate: "We agree to all the generalities about not supplying criminal laws with what they omit, but there is no canon against using common sense in construing laws as saying what they obviously mean. (Roschen v. Ward 279 U. S. 337. 339.)

"As a third basis for the decision the Court invoked the hoary canon of construction known as noscitur a socis or ejusdem generis (where general words follow the particular the application of the former is limited to items of the same kind or character as the latter).

Sat. 6-26-48

Highly Doubtful

"The use of this technical term is highly doubtful. The statute specifically defines a bathhouse as a place of public accommodation and there is authority construing such a term as extending to the entire accommodation including a pool. Stone v. Board of Directors of City of Pasadena, 47 Cal. App. (2d) 749, 118 P. (2) 866.

"The variety of situations in which they are meant to apply make the drafting of civil rights statutes difficult. The legislative intent, however, generally is obvious.

"Giving practical effect to the statutory meaning is a judicial function of prime importance calling for a judgement which is rendered impotent and meaningless by the rigid and abstract application of such canons as ejusdem generis.

"It is not the function of a court to rewrite a statute, nor is it the function of a court to contract or evisicerate a statute. It is the judicial function to find and apply legislative meaning. This the instant decision has not accomplished."

JUDGE DISMISSES

SWIMMING POOL

JIM CROW SUIT

Englewood, N. J. (
(WDL) -On grounds that New Jersey's civil rights law dows not refer expressly to "swimming pools," District Judge John Lynn dismissed a suit brought by Charles Storey against Palidades Amusement Park. Storey was refused admittance to the park's swimming pool on May 29 because he is a Negro.

An early appeal is planned by Hiram Elfenbein Workers Defense case. Already on appeal is a similar disctimination case which took place a year previous at the pool. Both cases are connected with the campaign of the committee ee pf Racial Equality to end Jim Crow at the pool.

In Storey's trial, Judge Lynn discharged the jury after five hours basing his decision on the point of law that while the New Jersey statute mentions "bath house," it does not mention "swimming pools." He held that Palisades Pool could not be considered a "bathhouse" even though it has showers and facilities for dressing and undressing.

SOURCE: Journal-Guide
Norfolk, Virginia
Sat. 11-13-48

PLAYGROUND PLAN SET UP IN HARLEM

Sat. 12-18-48

Civic Leaders Win Support of Rogers for Making Use of Empty Lots in Area

New York N.Y.

A group of Harlem civic leaders met yesterday at the office of Borough President Hugo E. Rogers in the Municipal Building to organize a program for the use of vacant lots as playgrounds.

The group set up a permanent organization to be known as the Lot-Playground Association, Inc., and J. Raymond Jones, Deputy Building and Housing Commissioner, was named chairman of the Executive Committee. Mrs. Viola Austin was elected president.

The group already has checked on the availability of fifty vacant lots in Harlem and with the cooperation of city officials and the owners it expects to make early use of the space in crowded tenement house sections for children who have been playing in the streets.

With State Senator Harold I. Panken, Mr. Rogers will confer with Mayor O'Dwyer and Controller Lazarus Joseph on a proposal to have the lots tax exempt while being used as play areas. Mr. Rogers also promised to have his staff put temporary surfaces on the playgrounds.

The organization will check with the residents adjoining the projected sites so that neighborhood children will take full advantage of the facilities.

When the owner of a vacant lot has granted permission for the use of his property, it is the plan of the organization to select district captains to supervise the operation of the play area. The organization members also will seek contributions for the purchase of equipment.

Borough President Rogers praised the groups for its initiative in planning the playground project. He said the plan was an outstanding example of what neighborhood groups could do to handle their own community problem.

The new organization is an affiliate of the Harlem Citizens Planning Council. Mrs. Carrie Thomas was named secretary. Borough President Rogers accepted honorary chairman of the executive committee.

NEGRO PARK WILL OPEN

The Commercial Appeal

Linden Avenue Unit To Begin Season At 4 P.M. Today

Memphis Press-Scim.

Complete with a number of improvements, Linden Avenue Amusement Park for negroes will open for the season at 4 p.m. today. The park is at Linden and Turley, and is operated by the Memphis Park Commission.

Linden Park, with its rides and other features, operates until midnight, opening on Saturdays at 4 p.m., Sundays at 3 p.m., and other days at 7 p.m. 7-17-45

City Council Refuses Bid To Fence In Carver Park

NORFOLK—A request of G. W. C. Brown, business manager of Norfolk Division, Virginia State College, that the city council provide funds for the fencing-in of Carver Park to permit the college team to stage football games to which admission would be charged was rejected by the council this week.

Though the council denied the request as entered by Mr. Brown, it did include funds for fencing in the park in its list of probable expenditures for the improvement of local playgrounds and parks.

In its list of proposed expenditures the council has listed Carver Park to receive repairs and renovations. The proposed expenditures will be $6,237 for new lands, plus fencing, bleachers, night lights, play and playground equipment and other items, totaling $36,237.

8 Colored Sites To Be Improved

NORFOLK—When the five-year budget recommendations for expenditures on 27 planned and present recreational areas in the city are placed before the City Council, eight such areas now used by colored Norfolkians for recreational purposes will be listed to receive an aggregate total of $162,732 for new land, lighting, play and playground equipment and other innovations.

Of the proposed expenditures, Barraud Park is scheduled to receive the greater amount with stipulation being made for new land, night lights, a fieldhouse, play and playground equipment, a hard surface area, picnic equipment and other items, which will cost a proposed $45,295.

Most of the expenditures to be listed in the recommendations to be placed — in letter-form—before the City Council by the recreation Commission, follow the suggestions of Dr. W. C. Batchelor, of Ohio State University, who made a survey of the city's recreation needs in 1946.

PART OF 5-YEAR PLAN

The recommendations are essentially part of a five-year plan for recreational improvement, but could be considered in a year-to-year manner by the council, the presenting committee has explained, in order not to bind the present members of the council to such a long-range program.

The terms of the councilmen are set at three years, and the application of the recommendations in the year-to-year form would allow the council to spread the available funds among the 27 projects on a need basis for the time that the councilmen spend in office.

In this manner, some equipment might be spread over several play areas during the year, in preference to completion of the suggested projects one by one.

LIST OF PROJECTS

The list of projects — in addition to the Barraud Park project — is as follows:

Lincoln Park — Grading, and playground equipment and other items, $16,200.

Tucker Park — Fencing, bleachers, play equipment and other items, $6,600.

Carver Park — $6,237 for new land, plus fencing, bleachers, night lights play and playground equipment and other items totaling $36,237.

A proposal made by G. W. C. Brown in the interest of Norfolk Division, Virginia State College, that the Carver Park site be fenced in to permit charging admission to games played by Norfolk Division teams, was turped down by the City Council during the week.

Campostella—$2,800 for new land, plus fencing, grading night lights, bleachers, play and playground equipment and other items, totaling $30,600.

Pollard Street — $6,500 for new land, plus play and playground equipment, totaling $10,600.

Lott Carey School—Play and playground equipment, $2,800.

John T. West School—Playground equipment, $600.

Another matter considered by council during its session this week was its agreement that the old R. A. Tucker School in Campostella no longer be used as a recreation center. Recreation activities have already been transferred to the new school.

Wylie A. Selden, well-known Norfolk resident, is a member of the City Recreation Commission.

Council Orders Development Of Carver Park

NORFOLK—The City Recreation Department this week was directed by the City Council to proceed immediately with the development of the Carver Park recreational and athletic center in order that the area may be open next summer.

In the same edict, Recreation Superintendent Paul Decker was ordered to take necessary steps to acquire any land needed for the development.

Carver Park, located south of Brambleton avenue and east of Landing street, is to receive new land at an estimated cost of $36,237.

In addition to the acquisition of more land for the park, the recreation superintendent has been directed to order any equipment necessary for the project.

The Carver Park development direction was contained in the same edict with the direction to develop Ruffner Park (white) in the Campostella section.

Suit Delayed As Negro Park Is Improved

Richmond, Va., Dec. 15 (AP).—Facilities offered by the 28-acre Prince Edward recreational area for Negroes are being improved to make them "equal and comparable to facilities in other State parks."

This announcement was made yesterday by William A. Wright, director of the State department of conservation and development, at the same time a hearing in Federal Court on charges of discrimination against Negroes in the Virginia State park system was continued.

Lawyers for both parties agreed to the continuance of the hearing on basis of plans by the conservation department for improving the Prince Edward recreation area into a park for Negroes with facilities equal to those in other State parks for whites.

Maceo Conrad Martin, a Negro resident of Danvlile, brought the suit in court last summer against the conservation department and its director.

"Relatively equal" facilities actually had been provided for Negroes, was the State's reply, filed by the attorney general's office. It said there had been virtually no demand for Negro park facilities and said the State is willing "to meet proportionately the actual demand for such facilities."

Wright said work on the Prince Edward Park would be pushed as rapidly as possible and at least some of the improvements should be ready by the opening of next summer's park season.

The park, which has been in service as a day-use recreational center for Negroes since 1941, is almost in the geographical center of the State and is easily accessible from all parts of the Commonwealth, Wright said.